

Sample Educational and Interpretive Programs and Products

11. Events – “Wilderness Weekend,” Shenandoah National Park

Welcome to Shenandoah National Park and Wilderness Weekend!



An Enduring Resource of Wilderness

What is wilderness?
Personal perception of wilderness vary. In Shenandoah National Park, wilderness is defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964, which states that, "a wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain, who temporary uses the land for what is needed, leaving no痕迹for future generations.

Why celebrate Shenandoah's wilderness?
On October 28, 1978, legislation was signed designating 89% of Shenandoah National Park as wilderness to be protected part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This act indicates a distinctive choice by the American people to permanently preserve wilderness in the face of increasing demands for private economic benefits for it and its resources from the complexities of our daily lives, down river waters, and habitats for endangered plants and animals.

Wilderness Facts

National Wilderness Preservation System
Established - 1964 (through the Wilderness Act)
Size (as of 2001) - 195,750,000 acres (approximately 4.4 % of U.S.A.)

Shenandoah National Park's Wilderness Area
Designated - 1978
Size at designation - 79,579 acres
Additions - 1978
Total size - 79,579 acres

Largest wilderness area
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Alaska, 9.7 million acres

Smallest wilderness area
St. Elmo Island National Wildlife Refuge, Florida, 5 acres

States with no wilderness areas
Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska, Rhode Island

Federal agencies that manage wilderness
National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife

Federal agency that manages the most wilderness
National Park Service (42%)

For more information about wilderness, visit www.wilderness.net



Wilderness Weekend
is sponsored by Shenandoah National Park
and the Shenandoah National Park Association



Wilderness Weekend

Celebrating 25 Years of Wilderness in Shenandoah National Park

October 19 - 21, 2001

Friday Oct. 19

The Wild Side of Shenandoah
8:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Big Meadows Amphitheater
Shenandoah's wilderness areas is an evening in your own backyard! Join a ranger for a campfire to explore the significance of the 25th anniversary of Shenandoah's designated wilderness.

Celebrate the Wild
8:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Loft Mountain Amphitheater
Join a ranger around the campfire. Come celebrate Shenandoah's 25 years of wilderness and enjoy the sites of Big Pines, the largest wilderness area in Shenandoah.

The Origin of Wilderness
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Big Meadow Cabin auditorium
Join park ranger David Loveland during his personal presentation on the significance of Shenandoah's wilderness. Associated with Shenandoah National Park's Longleaf Trail, David has first-hand experience with designation of wilderness in the East... also an accomplished and prolific author about Shenandoah's natural and cultural history, David will be available for book signing after his talk.

At Home in the Wild
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Loft Mountain amphitheater - except 4:30 What can we learn from our wild lands? Celebrate Shenandoah's 25 years of wilderness by exploring the wild heartland of the Eastern United States.

Shenandoah Apresherer
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Big Meadows Lodge dining room patio
Visit your wilderness apparently learning about the significance of Shenandoah's wilderness resources.

Your Wilderness
6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Skylift Gazebo Hall
Join park ranger provider Cheri Rogers of Roanoke, VA, as she brings the program campaign to great over 100,000 acre wilderness protection 25 percentage. As the Assistant Executive Director of the Wilderness Society from 2001 to 2005, Dr. Rogers helped anti-Congressional support for the establishment of wilderness in the East to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Shenandoah's Wild Side
6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Matthews Arm amphitheater
Come learn in a ranger led sheet environment a campfire about the people and events that led to the designation of Shenandoah's wilderness.

Sunday Oct. 21

A Wild Day in Shenandoah
8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Big Meadows Lodge great room
Join a ranger to find out how to have a safety in Shenandoah.

Tools of the Trade: Keeping Wilderness Trails Wild
9:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Big Meadows Visitor Center
When you visit in Shenandoah always realize the hard work that goes into developing wilderness trails! Learn some of the trail maintenance from Shenandoah National Park Trail Crew and Patagonia Appalachian Trail Club. Experience first hand the tools they use to help protect Shenandoah's wilderness resources.

The Junior Ranger Program at Matthews Arm
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Matthews Arm amphitheater
Join the Junior Ranger Program at Matthews Arm. Explore how wilderness areas are just as valuable for wildlife and humans.

Junior Ranger Program at Loft Mountain
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Loft Mountain amphitheater
Dive in here to explore! Join a ranger to discover the many creatures that call Shenandoah's wilderness home.

Wilderness Hunt
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Central Station
Join the Pioneers from the Patagonia Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) on a hike in the Corbin Cabin (Hawksbill Hollow) wilderness area to explore the historical history of Shenandoah's wilderness, the Patagonia Appalachian Trail Club and The Appalachian Trail.
Sponsor: Approximately 5 miles
Group size limit: Call 939-5489 for reservations in advance.

Skills: "Wild By Law"
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Big Blister Center cafeteria
Celebrate 25 years of wilderness in Shenandoah by creating that document that highlights the history of the designation and why it is important to take care protection in our country.

The Nature of Wilderness
11:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Big Meadows Information Center
Join a ranger to learn your wilderness knowledge and to discover the meaning of Shenandoah's 25-year old wilderness.

The Wilderness Way
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., North Branch
Join Shenandoah's Wilderness Rangers' tour that is a hike exploring the Harrison Ledge wilderness area for a closer look at wilderness and wilderness management in Shenandoah over the past 25 years.
Sponsor: Approximately 5 miles
Group size limit: Call 939-5489 for reservations in advance.

Walk On the Wild Side
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Loft Mountain Amphitheater
The Appalachian Trail crosses central Virginia through wilderness. It is a wilderness so strong on elevation, "Celebrate 25 years of Shenandoah's wilderness on a ranger-led hike along the Appalachian Trail."